

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA

PREVENTION ☐ EDUCATION ☐ ADVOCACY

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SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 1

Date 2-10-11

Bill No. SB 231

February 10, 2011

Senate Finance Committee

RE: SB 231, motor vehicle registration form "opt out" for brain injury donations

Dear Chairman Lewis and Members of the Committee,

Seven years ago, families of traumatic brain injury survivors asked DPHHS to partner with their association, the BIAMT, to obtain a federal grant in order to develop a way to support survivors and families after a brain injury and to reduce the disability caused by brain injury.

The result of that effort was the Resource Facilitation Service, recently renamed the Brain Injury Help Line. It is over four years old and has served almost 900 survivors. The Help Line is operated by the Brain Injury Association of Montana in its office in Missoula.

The Help Line is a telephone and computer-based self-advocacy support service that reaches out to enrollees at scheduled times during the two year period immediately after an injury, and also supports survivors at any other time of their lives with the challenges of living with brain injury are making it difficult to cope, to achieve goals or to solve a problem.

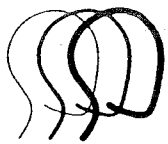
The Help Line is based on a model of self-advocacy support and education developed in Minnesota, where it was shown to reduce disability and dependence on public assistance programs while improving employment outcomes, school performance and family unity.

For the last three years, the Helpline has been funded with a \$100,000 appropriation of one-time only funds. This year, we hope to secure a general fund appropriation in the same amount, in HB 2, for both years of the biennium.

But for future biennia, we believe that SB 231 will generate a healthy special revenue stream to fund the Help Line and other efforts to promote brain injury awareness, prevention and early, effective rehabilitation.

In 2003, the Legislature established a traumatic brain injury account, Sec. 2-15-2218, Mont. Code Ann. The funding mechanism for that account is an "opt in" mechanism on the motor vehicle registration form. So far, it has generated at most \$9,600 per year.

After seven years, the balance in the brain injury account is now \$26,450.



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Montana's Brain Injury Help Line

Support and education for people living with a brain injury and their families

The Brain Injury Help Line is free public health service for people who have just received traumatic brain injuries, as well as for more than 10,000 Montanans already living with traumatic brain injury. The Help Line provides information and support to people with brain injuries during the critical months immediately after the brain injury, when services are critical to help the brain recover; and Help Line helps people cope with the impacts of brain injury on themselves, their jobs and their families. The Help Line does not provide case management, but it supports survivors and their families solve the puzzle of living with brain injury.

How it works

If a brain injury survivor decides to participate in the service, help line staff will call within six weeks after discharge from the hospital, and then again at six, 12, 18 and 24 months. Help Line staff provides information about brain injury diagnosis and recovery, help identify and troubleshoot problems, connect people with community resources, and educate family members, employers and educators about what it means to live with brain injury.

The person with the brain injury, or parent or family member, can opt out of the program at any time, or they can extend the program after two years if there is an ongoing need for service.

Anyone living with a brain injury, or a family member who is assisting, can also enroll in the Brain Injury Help Line by calling 800-241-6442, or 541-6442 in Missoula.

After every contact, staff follows up with a written letter and additional information. Additional follow-up calls are scheduled as necessary to support the efforts of the survivor or family member to solve a problem.

The Brain Injury Help Line also regularly visits hospitals to educate them about the importance of giving patients the opportunity to sign a release so that they can be enrolled in the Help Line and provides hospitals with information to share with patients before discharge.

The Help Line also enrolls any survivors or caregivers who call to ask for help with a new challenge at any time in their lives. Staff ask questions, help develop a plan, send letters and other information, and schedule follow up calls.

Plate #	Plate Type	Vehicle Nbr	County	Sale Date	Veh Char	County Option:
Tax Value	Class	GVW	Ton	MGW/GCW	Weight	Reg Fees:
Veh Identification Number	Veh Type	Veh Usage	Year	Make	Model	Sponsor Plate:
						GVW:
						State Park Fee:
						BRAIN INJURY DONATION:
						Total:
Print the driver license number of registered owner(s) (required).						Renew by Mail:
						Postage + _____
						State Park Fee Opt-out* _____
						Donate to: Organ Donor + _____
						Brain Injury OPT OUT → _____
						Adjusted Total * See #5 on back _____
Renew online at https://app.mt.gov/vrr						
Renew By Mail Make Check Payable to:				RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED REGISTRATION RENEWAL NOTICE Your vehicle registration expires on _____ . Renew by _____ .		FIRST CLASS PRESORTED US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #923 DEER LODGE MT 59722

The decision to create a special revenue account for brain injury was a policy choice of the 2003 Legislature.

The decision to fund it by a donation on the motor vehicle registration form was also a policy decision of lawmakers.

The change proposed in SB 231 makes it easier to donate, especially for people who mail in their payment.

The mechanisms for implementing SB 231 have been in place and in use since 2004.

SB 231 is a small change to this revenue-generating mechanism that will make a big change in Montana's response to the "silent epidemic" of brain injury.

Under "opt in" → less than \$10,000 per year

Under "opt out" → up to \$800,000 per year

TRUST FUND DEVELOPMENT AT-A-GLANCE

Date Ratified	State	Revenue Sources	Estimated Revenue	Program Focus
1985	PA	All traffic violations	\$3 million	Assessment, short-term community-based rehabilitation services, transition case management
1988	CA	.066 of state penalty fund	\$1 million	7 regionally based projects addressing community support needs
1988	FL	DUI, BUI, moving viol, motorcycle tag, temp license tag	\$17 million	Acute care, rehabilitation, community integration, nursing home transition, case management, Medicaid match, prevention, registry, special project grants
1991	MA	speeding, DUI	\$6.8 million	Non-recurring, short-term community support services
1991	MN	DUI	\$1 million	Registry, resource and service coordination
1991	TX	felonies and misdemeanor	\$10.5 million	Inpatient, outpatient, and post-acute rehabilitation services
1992	AZ	civil & criminal	\$2 million	Public information, prevention, education, community rehabilitation, transitional living, surveillance
1993	AL	DUI	\$1.5 million	Registry, resource coordination
1993	LA	DUI, speeding	\$1.5 million	Community-based services and supports
1993	TN	speeding, reck. op., DUI, rev. license.	\$750-950,000	Registry, grants for 10 community-based projects
1996	MS	DUI moving viol.	\$3.5 million	Registry, waiver match, services, transitional living, prevention, education, recreation
1997	NM	moving violations	\$1.5 million	Service coordination, life skills training, crisis interim services
1997	VA	license reinst. fee	\$1.2 million	Grants for community-based rehabilitation projects, applied research projects
1998	GA	DUI	\$2.3 million	Community-based services and supports, support groups, AT
1998	KY	percent of court costs	\$3.3 million	Community-based services and supports, surveillance registry
2002	CO	speeding DUI	\$1.5 million	Care coordination, services, research, education
2002	HI	traffic offenses	\$600,000	Service coordination, education, public awareness, registry
2002	MO	Cost of court	\$800,000	Counseling, mentoring, education
2002	NJ	car registration	\$3.8 million	Community-based services and supports, public awareness, education
2003	MT	car registration	\$8,117	Advisory Council, grants for public awareness, prevention education
2004	CT	reckless driv., speeding DUI	\$300,000	Undetermined – may focus on resource coordination